

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION/OUTREACH/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 24, 2003

Members Present:

Sandra Whitehouse
Tom Sandham
Meg Kerr

Members Absent:

Mary Anne Barry
Sen. Susan Sosnowski
Chip Young

Water Resources Board Staff:

Connie McGreavy

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Whitehouse called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kerr moved to approve the January meeting minutes with Mr. Sandham seconding the motion. On a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. EPA Environmental Education Grant Application

The grant application has been submitted with a final budget of \$25, 000 (actual costs: \$33,391.00). Letters of support were obtained from the RI Water Resources Board, Univ. of RI-Cooperative Extension, and representatives from the RI House and the US Congress. Ms. McGreavy indicated that the \$3 million in funding for the grant program is uncertain. Dr. Whitehouse will call representatives of the federal delegation to make them aware of this. Ms. McGreavy reported that she contacted the Governor's Office and drafted a letter but time did not allow for signing. Ms. McGreavy will forward the letter to Dr. Whitehouse.

B. Report from Committee Members on Tasks

1. Availability of electronic version of Providence Business News' (PBN) Book of Lists

Dr. Whitehouse reported that the General Assembly did not have an electronic list; Ms. McGreavy estimated the cost at \$200. The committee agreed that it would be useful; Dr. Whitehouse will follow up.

2. Compile constituent distribution list/list serves

Ms. McGreavy reported that Ms. Barry has returned to full time work, so this task needs to be delegated. Possible sectors to reach include golf courses (irrigators), manufacturers, the hospitality industry, etc. Ms. Kerr will contact URI-Coastal Institute, Save the Bay and the South County Watershed group regarding use of their list serves. She offered to make an announcement at the Narragansett Bay Partnership meeting as well.

Discussion turned to the one page introductory piece designed to recruit committee members. It was agreed that the letter could be revised, for example, referencing drought

to attract interest. Ms. McGreavy will circulate the one-pager electronically for edit. Ms. Kerr offered to follow up with Mr. Young.

3. Availability/costs of freelance reporters

Mr. Sandham will contact reporters this month and will call Mr. Young for names. Dr. Whitehouse will contact Ms. Delehart with the Metcalf Institute. The committee agreed that professional writers are needed.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Research Topics for Intern

Dr. Whitehouse asked Ms. Boness, a student intern, to research grants for which various committees could apply. Dr. Whitehouse suggested that she could contact other states regarding education approaches using written materials, television, town meetings, etc. The focus would be education regarding conservation and water allocation, and how to get the message across regarding possible limitations of water in the future. Research regarding how states allocate water would be instructive. (Ms. McGreavy pointed out that the Water Use Reporting Committee would also be investigating this.)

B. RI Foundation Grant Meeting

Ms. Kerr and Mr. Sandham will attend this meeting on Feb. 28, 2003 and report to the Committee.

C. Interfacing with Joint Advocacy & Funding Committee

Ms. McGreavy stated that the purpose of the Joint Advocacy & Funding Committee. She hoped the lead of this committee could assist the Education Committee by advocating for the Environmental Education grant. Ms. McGreavy shared a notice regarding a media kit available to water suppliers through the American Water Works Association. Ms. Kerr offered to follow up; she will also contact Mr. Young regarding media strategies.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sandham attended a meeting of the Assn. of Conservation Districts and reported on the grant and the Water Allocation Program in general. Reportedly, volunteers stepped forward to help write articles for URI's *Water Front* magazine.

VI. AJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Boness
Brown University

Date